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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Microsoft has proven it is stronger than the U.S. government, and can do anything it wants. As a convicted illegal monopolist, Microsoft receives only a slap on the wrist.

I've been working in the computer industry since the days before Microsoft was a monopoly. Back then, there was lots of healthy competition. Slowly but surely, Microsoft used illegal tactics to squeeze the life out of all the other companies. Today, the computer industry is at the mercy of an 800 lb gorilla. There is no way for new companies to come out with new products.

The root of the problem is that Microsoft has a monopoly on BOTH the OS and leading office applications. They can afford to "dump" on the market with money-losing products in either area, just long enough to starve out the competition. Today, they are choking the life out of Palm primarily because people mistakenly believe they need to be compatible with Word and Excel, therefore they choose Pocket PC devices. Today, they are targeting the video game market and they can afford to dump the hardware and lose money on every sale, because they have the huge bankroll of an illegal monopolist.

Just look at the net profit of Microsoft. It is an obscenely high percentage of sales. No other company in the industry has such high profit margins. Consumers are being screwed.

The only way to restore healthy competition is to make Microsoft compete fairly: the OS and Applications businesses need to be separated. The current settlement agreement is about as effective as the last one. Too little, too late...

-John Covele